

Serial No:10/815,913
Docket No: 04-01005

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application, in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks and arguments, is respectfully requested.

The Examiner's indication that claims 4, 9, 12 and 13 contain patentable subject matter is noted with appreciation.

Claim 13 has been cancelled without prejudice and is presented in claim 14 in independent form including all of the limitations of base claim 10.

The rejection of claims 1-3, 5-8, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Hobbs (USPN 3,678,543) is respectfully traversed and reconsideration is requested.

Claim 1, as amended, overcomes the 35 USC 102(b) rejection over Hobbs because it has been amended to recite:

a ring having a first end and a second end joined together by two longitudinal side pieces, said ring is slidably engaged with said link, wherein said link is positioned within said ring between said first and second ends so that said first and second ends slide along said two side members;

and

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a finger, said finger extending from said ring in a direction towards
said apex and terminating at an end.

Claims 2 and 3 add additional features to the independent claim 1 as recited above
and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claim 5, as amended, overcomes the 35 USC 102(b) rejection over Hobbs
because it has been amended to recite:

a ring, said ring is formed of a single piece of material that is bent
to form a first end, a second end, and two longitudinal side pieces, said
ring is slidably engaged with said link;

and

a finger; said finger extending from said ring in a direction towards
said apex and terminating at an end.

Claims 4-9 add additional features to the independent claim 1 as recited above
and thus are submitted to be a-fortiori, patentable.

Claim 10 is canceled.

Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 14 which includes now
cancelled and objected to claim 13 and its base claim 1, thereby placing it in condition for
allowance.

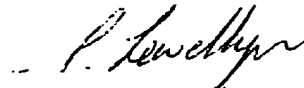
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In view of the foregoing amendment, remarks and arguments, all of the claims currently pending in this application are now seen to be in a condition for allowance. A Notice of Allowance of Claims 1-9, 11, 12, 14 and 15 is therefore earnestly solicited.

The Examiner is hereby requested to telephone the undersigned agent of record at 727-345-1450 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the instant application.

Respectfully submitted,



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